



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABCD Kicks Off Expanded Summer Jobs Program 2,200 Youth to Report for Work by July 9

More than 2,200 teenagers and young adults – twice as many as last year – spread out across the city this week, reporting to work at over 200 community agencies, hospitals, childcare centers, government offices, museums and other non-profit sites in the ABCD SummerWorks program.

The youngsters come from low-income households in every Boston neighborhood and count themselves among the fortunate. They were chosen by neighborhood-based lotteries from more than 5,000 applicants citywide.

Along with paid employment, youngsters receive tutoring and mentoring and participate in the SummerWorks program's work-readiness, career development and financial education initiatives. This year ABCD SummerWorks is providing jobs and support services for young people ages 14 to 24.

“We know that a summer job – with solid adult supervision – can make a huge difference for at-risk youngsters,” said ABCD President/CEO Bob Coard. “We thank Mayor Menino for his longtime advocacy for summer jobs and we're very glad that we can expand the program this year. We're also pleased to be serving older youth who desperately need employment. But there are still thousands of youngsters who remain unserved.”

ABCD SummerWorks is part of Mayor Thomas Menino's summer jobs initiative for Boston and has provided opportunities for disadvantaged youth since 1965. Those served by ABCD are the most at-risk youngsters in the city – all come from low-income, inner-city families. For example, a family of four cannot earn more than \$28,605 for their teenager to qualify for SummerWorks.

ABCD is serving more youths this summer because of federal economic stimulus funding along with state monies and private fundraising initiatives, including the Field of Dreams softball tournament made possible by the Boston Red Sox which raised \$170,000 this

year. ABCD thanks its public and private funders for their generous support of this all-important program.

About ABCD:

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High – an Alternative High School; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; Food Pantries in several Boston neighborhoods; management of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign (COBECC) and City of Boston Employees Charitable Campaign (COBECC); advocacy and consumer services.

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